

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0121

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP

SUBJECT: SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO VISITS TO U.S.

REF: (A) 75 LISBON 7383, (B) 75 LISBON 7317, (C) MELTON/KELLY

TELECON 1/5/76, (D) LISBON 0075

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER SA CARNEIRO ARE PLANNING U.S. VISITS AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE SECRETARY. I RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY RECEIVE THEM AS IMPORTANT GESTURE OF U.S. SUPPORT THROUGH DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD.
END SUMMARY.

1. POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) SECRETARY-GENERAL SA CARNEIRO TOLD AMBASSADOR RECENTLY THAT HE IS PLANNING TO VISIT U.S. IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY. PPD LEADERS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED IF THEY PREFER U.S. INVITATION OR PRIVATE VISIT. DEPT IS ALREADY AWARE OF SOCIALIST (PS) LEADER MARIO SOARES'S PLANS TO VISIT U.S. JAN 20-29 (REF D). BOTH PS AND PPD LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO VISITS WOULD BE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. MARIO SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO ARE THE TWO PRINCIPAL DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN LEADERS IN PORTUGAL. THE SOCIALISTS ARE THE COUNTRY'S LEADING PARTY BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PPD COULD COME OUT AHEAD IN THE 1976 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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ELECTIONS.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY AGREE TO SEE BOTH SOARES AND SA CARNEIRO. MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER KEY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WILL PROVIDE VALUABLE ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DIFFICULT PERIOD AHEAD. NOW THAT SOARES, SA CARNEIRO, AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES HAVE ACHIEVED SOME MEASURE OF SUCCESS AGAINST COMMUNIST THREAT, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THEIR EFFORTS. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT SOARES LED THE DIFFICULT STRUGGLE LAST YEAR AGAINST COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE GOP. SA CARNEIRO HAS ALSO PLAYED A VIGOROUS ROLE IN OPPOSING COMMUNIST SUBVERSION; MOST RECENTLY HE HAS LED CAMPAIGN AGAINST PCP PARTICIPATION IN THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. CARLUCCI

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